



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator C. Anthony Muse**

**SB 545: Towing or Removal of Vehicles – Reclamation Hours  
Judicial Proceedings Committee – March 2, 2023**

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the JPR Committee.

SB 545 would change the hours in which a towed vehicle may be reclaimed, which currently is 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to a minimum of 6:00am to 12-midnight, 7 days a week. Currently, contractors who tow on behalf of the Maryland State Police are only required to make vehicles available for reclamation Monday–Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm and Saturday–Sunday from 9am to 12noon. This legislation is not asking for the reduction of hours to meet those of the Maryland State Police, but simply a reasonable request of 7 days a week from 6:00am to 12-midnight. Thus, SB 545 allows private property tow operators to operate under the same reasonable and safer hours that government contracted tow operators.

In addition, tow companies encounter the most dangerous elements of society between the hours of midnight and 6:00am when they are forced to make towed vehicles available during that window of time. The number of threats and assaults against operators and their property during this time frame is well documented with law enforcement and insurance companies. In fact, there are two instances where tow truck operators were killed at work in the last 5 years.

In closing, on all properties where private tow operators are lawfully contracted for towing enforcement, there is signage stating the requirements for parking on the property. Therefore, the driver of the vehicle makes a conscious decision to illegally park.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I ask for a FAVORABLE report on SB 545.